

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 W
----- 025382

R 171805Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1160
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13744

DEPT: PLEASE PASS CU/WE, EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, PINT, GW

SUBJECT: POSITIVE REACTION BY JUSO DELEGATION TO
U.S. VISIT

REF: BONN 09569 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: INITIAL REACTION BY THE FOUR-MEMBER
GERMAN YOUNG SOCIALIST (JUSO) DELEGATION TO THEIR JULY
5-16 VISIT TO THE U.S. HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE.
ACTION REQUESTED: STATUS OF U.S. YOUNG DEMOCRATS'
AFFILIATION WITH THE U.S. YOUTH COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE JULY INFORMATION VISIT BY JUSO
CHAIRPERSON HEIDEMARIE WIECZOREK-ZEUL, JUSO IDEOLOGUE
JOHANO STRASSER, EXECUTIVE BOARD STAMOKAP MEMBER KLAUS
UWE BENNETER AND JUSO INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANT ILSE BOGEN
WITH BOGEN AND HANS-PETER WEBER, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH
AFFAIRS AT SPD HEADQUARTERS. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO REVIEW
THE VISIT WITH THE OTHER THREE WHEN WE CAN CATCH THEM
AWAY FROM THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. IN THE MEANTIME, THE
FOLLOWING INITIAL REACTION, WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO HOLD
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FOR ALL THE PARTICIPANTS, IS PRESENTED FOR THE INFORMA-

TION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY CONSTITUENT POSTS.

2. WEBER, WHO DID SOME OF THE GROUNDWORK, SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS. HE SUMMARIZED HIS REACTION, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL THE PARTICIPANTS, AS INDICATING:

-- THE VISIT GENERALLY CAME OFF WELL, PARTICULARLY AS A RESULT OF AFL-CIO POLITICAL LEADER JIM WOODS' EFFORTS IN LOS ANGELES

-- THE JUSOS ARE DETERMINED TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH U.S. YOUTH GROUPS

-- UNFORTUNATELY MANY OF THE U.S. INTERLOCUTORS (HE SINGLED OUT DAVID DORN OF THE U.S. LABOR COUNCIL) APPARENTLY FAILED TO REALIZE THAT IT WAS UNPRODUCTIVE TO POUND AWAY AT THE JUSO DELEGATION ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DETENTE.

3. WEBER SAID HE HOPED THE STRENGTHENED CONTACT BETWEEN THE JUSOS AND U.S. YOUTH GROUPS WOULD BE CONTINUED. HE REITERATED HIS DESIRE THAT SOME TYPE OF NON-COMMUNIST, WORLD-WIDE YOUTH ORGANIZATION BE ESTABLISHED TO REPLACE WAY (THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH). HE ALSO REPEATED THE FIRM DETERMINATION OF THE JUSOS AND MOST FRG YOUTH GROUPS TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ACYPL (AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS) AS LONG AS THE LATTER CONTINUED TO HAVE OBSERVER STATUS WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATIVE GROUPS. WEBER SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE USYC, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE VOICED CONCERN THAT A WITHDRAWAL FROM THE USYC BY THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS COULD WIPE OUT MUCH OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORMATION ON PRESENT STATE OF PLAY OF YOUNG DEMOCRATS MEMBERSHIP IN USYC.

4. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, BOGEN INFORMED EMBOFF SHE WAS PLEASED WITH THE TRIP AND SHE FELT CERTAIN THAT HER THREE COLLEAGUES SHARED THIS REACTION. SHE WAS PARTICULARLY

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LARLY IMPRESSED BY THE FINE MANNER IN WHICH THE ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS WERE HANDLED, AS A RESULT OF WHICH EVERYTHING FOR THE MOST PART WENT SURPRISINGLY WELL. HERE SHE SINGLED OUT FOR PRAISE THE INDIVIDUAL EFFORT OF INTERPRETER KIM CAMPBELL IN ASSISTING BENNETER, AN OUTSIDER FROM THE JUSO MAINSTREAM AND ONE THE OTHERS (AND WE) DESIRED TO HANDLE WITH KID GLOVES. BOGEN SAID THAT KRIS BRUUN CUNNINGHAM OF THE YOUNG PEOPLES

SOCIALIST LEAGUE, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE GROUP DURING THE
ENTIRE VISIT, WAS ALSO VERY HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH
OCCASIONALLY OPENLY DISTRESSED AT THE DELEGATION'S

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13744

PROCLIVITY TO ARRIVE FIVE MINUTES LATE FOR APPOINTMENTS.

5. BOGEN FELT THE GROUP'S STAY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN
MUCH TOO SHORT. SHE SINGLED OUT MEETINGS AT THE
DEPARTMENT WITH COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HARTMAN, AND EUR/CE OFFICERS AS BEING REFRESH-
INGLY CANDID AND BENEFICIAL. THE JUSO PARTICIPANTS WERE
IMPRESSED BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNAL FRG AFFAIRS
DISPLAYED BY THEIR DEPARTMENTAL HOSTS.

6. AFTER WASHINGTON THE DELEGATION VISITED DETROIT, LOS
ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK. HIGHLIGHTS
INCLUDED A SHORT MEETING WITH LEONARD WOODCOCK, A
HELICOPTER TOUR OF LOS ANGELES, AND THE FINAL DAY AT THE
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION. THERE WERE REGULAR
MEETINGS WITH REGIONAL YPSL GROUPS THROUGHOUT.

7. BOGEN FELT THE VISIT HAD FOR THE MOST PART PRESENTED A GOOD IMPRESSION OF THE US AND WAS VALUED BY THE FOUR TRAVELLERS. SHE NOTED HOWEVER A FEW HEART-BURNERS, FOR EXAMPLE:

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-- THE OVERDONE AND REPEATED EFFORTS BY THE YPSL GENOSSEN TO CONVINCE THE JUSOS OF THE UNDESIRABILITY OF WORKING WITH PROGRESSIVE COMMUNIST GROUPS.

-- DIFFICULTY UP TO THE LAST MINUTE IN OBTAINING ENTRANCE PASSES TO THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

-- A FAUX PAS ON THE PART OF THE FRG CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK, WHEREBY REPRESENTATIVES OF MICHAEL HARRINGTON'S SPLINTER GROUP SOCIALISTS -- ARCH ENEMIES OF THE YPSL -- WERE INVITED TO A RECEPTION FOR THE JUSOS.

8. BOGEN EMPHASIZED THAT ALTHOUGH AS NOTED ABOVE THERE WERE A FEW UNPLEASANT ASPECTS TO THE VISIT, THESE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DETRACT FROM THE OVERALL WORTH OF THE ENDEAVOR. THE DELEGATION MEMBERS KNEW IN ADVANCE THEY WOULD ENCOUNTER ARGUMENTS, ESPECIALLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE YPSL, WHICH HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN AN ODD-MAN-OUT IN INTERNATIONAL YOUNG SOCIALIST MEETINGS. SHE ADDED HOWEVER THAT THE ARGUMENTS THAT SHE AND HER THREE COLLEAGUES HAD DURING THE US VISIT SELDOM APPROACHED THE INTENSITY OF THE INTERNAL DEBATE THAT THE SPD AND THE JUSO LEADERS REGULARLY HOLD WITH ONE ANOTHER.

9. COMMENT: PERHAPS IT WAS ONLY COINCIDENTAL, BUT IT IS NONETHELESS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT IN THE JUSOS' RECENTLY PUBLISHED 80-PAGE CAMPAIGN PAMPHLET (WITH A PRINTING OF 100,000 COPIES), ONE OF THE MAJOR OFFENSES LEVIED AGAINST THE CDU YOUTH GROUP "JUNGE UNION" IS THAT MEMBERS OF THE LATTER NOT ONLY HAVE NO SECURITY POLICY OF THEIR OWN BUT REGARD THE POLICIES OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AS AN "APPEASEMENT VIS-A-VIS WORLD COMMUNISM." SUCH ALIGNMENT BY THE JUSOS IN DEFENSE OF US POLICIES, ALBEIT INDIRECT, IS NOT OFTEN SEEN IN BONN.

HILLENBRAND

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